

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1 to 74 (canceled)

75. (previously presented) A method for moisturizing the eye comprising administering to the surface of the eye less than 3 microliters of an aqueous fluid consisting essentially of water.

76. (previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the volume of fluid administered to the eye is less than about 2 microliters.

77. (previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the volume of aqueous fluid administered to the eye is from 1 to 2 microliters.

78. (previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the average size of the droplets is less than 20 microns in diameter.

79. (previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the administered fluid is in the form of a mist.

80. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the volume of fluid administered to the eye is less than about 2 microliters.

81. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the volume of aqueous fluid administered to the eye is from 1 to 2 microliters.

82. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the average size of the droplets is less than 20 microns in diameter.

83. (new) A method for moisturizing the surface of the eye comprising administering 10 microliters or less of an aqueous composition to the surface of the eye, wherein the composition has an osmolarity less than that of the normal tear film, which normal tear film is a trilaminar structure having an outer lipid layer, a middle aqueous layer, and an inner mucous layer, and wherein the administration of the composition to the surface of the eye leaves intact the trilaminar structure of the tear film.

84. (new) The method of claim 83 wherein 6 microliters or less is administered.

85. (new) The method of claim 83 wherein 2 microliters or less is administered.

86. (new) The method of claim 83 wherein the administration of the composition rehydrates the aqueous layer of the tear film, without disrupting the mucous or lipid layers of the tear film.

87. (new) The method of claim 83 wherein the aqueous composition consists essentially of water.

88. (new) The method of claim 87 wherein the aqueous composition is administered in the form of a mist of dispersed droplets in air.

89. (new) The method of claim 88 wherein the droplets in the mist are between 5 and 150 microns in diameter.